AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the originally-filed Abstract of the Disclosure, and add the accompanying new Abstract of the Disclosure which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Please add the following new paragraphs after the paragraph ending on line 10 of page 2:

-- Finally, description WO-A1-89/05620 provides a fixing plate for rib fractures being flexurally rigid in the longitudinal direction, and to a certain extent flexible in the direction perpendicular to this. In addition, it is to a certain extent also rotable in the diagonal direction (being able to torsion). This arrangement serves for supporting and fixing the individual fractured ribs on the one hand, and at the same time, should make free breathing movement of the patient possible, on the other hand. This objective is achieved by using a plate made of a flexible, elastic material, such as rubber or plastic, in which several closed, long-shaped cavities parallel to the longitudinal, flexurally rigid direction are arranged. In each of these cavities, freely movable, as one-dimensional splint elements, rods made of an inelastic but deformable material are arranged. In case of a rib fracture, due to their deformability, these splints can be fitted to the contour of the rib. The plate with the splints will be stuck flatly to

the chest, in this position the splints run parallel to the ribs. Thus, the ribs are fixed in the longitudinal direction, whereas at normal breathing, the chest is able to expand without hindrance.

Though the one-dimensional splints fix the fractured ribs in the longitudinal direction, they allow for unhindered movement of the ribs relative to each other for breathing. The reason for this is partly the free movability of the splints in the cavities. Due to this movability of the ribs relative to each other at breathing, the distances between individual ribs change. As a result, the fractured sites of the ribs may rub on each other causing pain for the patient. This pain may lead to a cramp in the intercostal musculature strengthening further the pain.--

Please delete the paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 2.

Please add the following <u>new</u> paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 17 of page 2:

-- The task is solved according to features described in Claim 1. The essence of the invention lies in a flat splint element being rigid in itself covering the fracture area and possibly the fractured rib(s) and the neighbouring, not fractured ribs as well, which splint is provided with an adhesive layer on its side facing the body suitable for adhering the immobilizing device to the body.

The splint element can be adhered to the fractured part of the thorax (fracture area) so that preferably the neighbouring, not fractured parts are also covered. The fractured ribs can be thus secured by the splint element being relatively rigid in itself, and at the same time, can be supported also by the uninjured ribs. This stabilization leads to reducing the pain and can facilitate breathing.--

Please delete the paragraph beginning on line 3 of page 3.

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 2 of page 3:

-- The plastically deformable metal plate is made preferably of aluminium, where the plastically deformable metal plate is corrugated in order to improve local deformability with increasing at the same time the rigidity, and the crests of corrugations of the plate are essentially parallel to the ribs to be treated. Such a splint material has already successful applications for different purposes (WO-A1-97/22312 resp. US-A-6,039,706).--